

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 7, 2002

Contact: Roy Stearns
(916) 654-7538
Steve Capps
(916) 651-8750

2002 Olympic Torch Relay

California State Parks Offering 'Some of the Best Seats in the House'

SACRAMENTO – California State Parks will offer great vantage points for the 2002 Winter Olympics Torch procession as it makes its way through California on its way to Utah, State Parks director Rusty Areias announced today.

The procession will take the Olympic Torch past at least six state parks in three cities this month – Sacramento, Truckee and San Diego, Areias said after reviewing the route plans. State Parks is making special arrangements to greet the torch procession and the visitors that will come to see it.

“State Parks will provide some of the best seats in the house for watching the Olympic Torch Relay,” said Areias. “This is a time for America and the world to celebrate, and we are honored to be part of that celebration here in California.”

A gala ceremony will be held at Old Sacramento State Historic Park the evening of Saturday, Jan. 19, as the Olympic Torch arrives at the capital from the Bay Area. It is expected to be carried into Old Sacramento at about 7:45 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to arrive earlier, however.

The ceremony in Old Sacramento State Historic Park will feature free admission into the Railroad Museum and the Discovery Museum from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., food and drink, musical entertainment, children’s activities and official 2002 Winter Olympics merchandise sales. State Parks will erect an 1849 scene for the welcoming ceremony. The public is invited to attend the ceremony and watch the lighting of the cauldron.

Before arriving in Old Sacramento, the Olympic Torch Relay will pass Sutter's Fort State Historic Park in downtown Sacramento at about 6:50 p.m., where State Parks plans to create an historic encampment scene featuring period costumes, musicians playing period music and two big bonfires. Caltrans is providing lighting.

The Olympic Torch procession also will pass by the Governor's Mansion State Historic Park at about 7:10 p.m. and the state Capitol, home to the California State Capitol Museum, at about 7:25 p.m. *(See attached map for route).*

At its earlier stop in San Diego on January 14, the Olympic Torch procession will proceed through Old Town San Diego State Historic Park and a relay exchange will occur at the flagpole in the park about 3 p.m. No formal ceremony is planned at the park as the visit will be brief.

On Sunday, Jan. 20 in Truckee,, State Parks will host a ceremony at Donner Memorial State Historic Park from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. to greet the Olympic Torch Relay as it continues east. The Truckee High School Band will provide entertainment. The park is in the Sierra Nevada mountains, about 100 miles east of Sacramento off Interstate 80.

The 2002 Winter Olympics are scheduled for Salt Lake City, Utah, from Feb. 8 to Feb. 24. Before the games begin it is a tradition for the Olympic Torch to be carried from Athens, Greece, to the site of the next Olympics. Last month the torch was flown from Athens to Atlanta, Georgia, where it began its trip through 46 states with more than 11,500 torchbearers carrying it over a period of 65 days.

As the Olympic Torch relay moves through Northern California, the torch will be carried by nearly 100 inspirational individuals who were chosen as the best representatives of the Olympic Spirit.

#